



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2000

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

ILLINOIS, Northeast

ILZ005>006-011>014-019>022 Mchenry - Lake - De Kalb - Kane - Du Page - Cook - La Salle - Kendall - Grundy - Will

11 0300CST 2300CST 0 0 Blizzard

A major winter storm developed in the Texas Panhandle and moved northeast through southern Illinois and northeast Indiana on December 11, bringing blizzard conditions to much of northeast Illinois. At the onset of the storm, snow began falling at a rate of one inch per hour, with more than one-half foot snowfall totals reported across the area by mid day. By late afternoon and early evening the combination of heavy snows and wind gusts of 30 to 40 mph created near white-out conditions. Peak wind gusts were 46 mph at Morris, 45 mph at Aurora, 39 mph at Midway and O'Hare, and 37 mph at West Chicago and Wheaton. Law enforcement reported visibilities reduced to 10 feet at times along interstates. Wind chill indices averaged 35 to 40 below zero during the evening. By the time the storm was over, the heaviest snows were reported in Cook County, with the community of Burbank reporting 14.5 inches. Other snowfall totals included 13.8 inches at Downers Grove, 13.5 inches at Elmhurst and Mount Prospect, 13.0 inches at Wheaton, and 12.2 inches at Mundelein. The official Chicago measurement at O'Hare was 9.5 inches, and 9.5 inches fell at the NWS Office in Romeoville. Some homeless shelters were not able to be open across northern Illinois due to staff personnel being unable to reach the facilities. Virtually all air travel in and out of the Chicago area was cancelled, with nearly 1,300 flights cancelled at O'hare International Airport alone. One Boeing 727 slid off a runway at O'hare while attempting to land with no injuries being reported. Many schools closed on the 11th and virtually all area schools closed on the 12th. No deaths were attributed directly to the blizzard, however 19 people died due to heart failure while shoveling snow or falling and succumbing to hypothermia. With the combination of persistently below normal temperatures and subsequent snowfalls during the remainder of the month, on January 11th, 2001, Illinois Governor George Ryan issued a disaster declaration for the entire state. On January 17th, 2001, President Clinton declared 21 counties in Illinois, many in the northern portion of the state, as Federal Emergency Areas.

ILZ003>004-008-010 Winnebago - Boone - Ogle - Lee

11 0300CST 2300CST 0 0 Heavy Snow

A major winter storm developed in the Texas Panhandle and moved northeast through southern Illinois and northeast Indiana on December 11th. Snow fell at the rate of an inch per hour during the morning hours and by midday more than half a foot was on the ground. Winds gusted to 25 to near 35 mph during the late afternoon and evening hours causing considerable blowing and drifting snow. Wind chills dropped to 30 to 40 below zero during the evening. Snowfall totals included 8.3 inches at Rockford, 8.0 inches at Belvidere, 9.0 inches at Amboy, and 12.4 inches at Dixon. With the combination of persistently below normal temperatures and subsequent snowfalls during the remainder of the month, on January 11th, 2001, Illinois Governor George Ryan issued a disaster declaration for the entire state. On January 17th, 2001, President Clinton declared 21 counties in Illinois, many in the northern portion of the state, as Federal Emergency Areas.

ILZ023-032>033-039 Kankakee - Livingston - Iroquois - Ford

11 0300CST 2300CST 0 0 Winter Storm

A major winter storm developed in the Texas Panhandle and moved northeast through southern Illinois and northeast Indiana on December 11th, causing heavy snow and ice over the area. In southern Livingston County and most of Ford and Iroquois Counties, significant accumulations of freezing rain and sleet fell, knocking out power. The ice changed to snow in the afternoon and evening and winds gusted to 25 to near 35 mph causing significant blowing and drifting snow. Mostly snow fell in northern Livingston County and most of Kankakee County. Snowfall totals included 9.1 inches at Chatsworth, 8.0 inches at Chebanse, 11.0 inches at Dwight, 9.7 inches at Momence, and 5.0 inches at Piper City. With the combination of persistently below normal temperatures and subsequent snowfalls during the remainder of the month, on January 11th, 2001, Illinois Governor George Ryan issued a disaster declaration for the entire state. On January 17th, 2001, President Clinton declared 21 counties in Illinois, many in the northern



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2000

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

ILLINOIS, Northeast

portion of the state, as Federal Emergency Areas.

ILZ023-032>033-039

Kankakee - Livingston - Iroquois - Ford

**13 0900CST
2300CST**

0 0

Heavy Snow

Snow began during the morning and diminished to flurries before midnight. Snowfall totals included 7.0 inches at Chatsworth and Streator, 6.0 inches at Paxton, 5.5 inches at Chebanse and Momence.

INDIANA, Northwest

INZ010>011-019

Newton - Jasper - Benton

**11 0600EST
12 0500EST**

0 0

Winter Storm

An intense winter storm, which developed in the Texas Panhandle, moved northeast across southern Illinois and northeast Indiana on December 11 and 12, causing heavy snow and ice over northwest Indiana. Significant ice accumulations occurred due to sleet and freezing rain in southern Newton, southern Jasper and Benton counties before changing to snow. The ice storm knocked out power. Mainly snow fell in northern Newton and northern Jasper Counties. Snow totals included 6.8 inches at Wheatfield and 5.5 inches at Lake Village. Winds gusted to 25 to near 35 mph during the late afternoon and evening causing considerable blowing and drifting of snow. No deaths were directly related to this storm system.

INZ001>002

Lake - Porter

**11 0600EST
12 0500EST**

0 0

Blizzard

An intense winter storm, which developed in the Texas Panhandle, moved northeast through southern Illinois and northeast Indiana December 11 and 12. Heavy snow fell at the rate of nearly an inch per hour during the morning and early afternoon. During the height of the blizzard from around 200 pm through 800 pm CST, a combination of heavy snow and wind gusts of 35 to 40 mph created near white-out conditions. Law enforcement officials reported visibilities reduced to near zero along Interstate 80 and Interstate 65, stranding many motorists. The peak wind gust at Gary was 40 mph. Wind chill indices dropped to 30 to 40 degrees below zero during the evening of the 11th. By early morning on the 12th, nearly one foot of snow had fallen over Lake and Porter Counties. Some snowfall totals included 10.5 inches at Lowell, 9.0 inches at Crown Point, and 8.0 inches at Hebron.